

## NOTES ON THE GENUS CYPRÆA.

BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL.

Since the publication of the latest monograph on the genus *Cypræa*—that by Mr. Roberts in Tryon's Manual of Conchology—four new species have been described, viz:—

*Cypræa amphithales* Melvill, *South Africa*.

*Cypræa caput-draconis* Melvill, *Hong-Kong*.

*Cypræa Hungerfordii* Sowerby, *Hong-Kong*.

*Cypræa Rashleighana* Melvill, *hab. unknown*.

Each of them has been described, apparently, from a single specimen, and it is not at all certain but that two of Mr. Melvill's species, *amphithales* and *caput-draconis* may turn out to be mere varieties.

In Mr. Melvill's "Survey of the genus *Cypræa*," reprinted in pamphlet form in Manchester, England, last year, a large number of new varieties of known species are described—some of them founded upon mere color variations. Most of them seem to me unnecessary additions to shell nomenclature. Tryon and Roberts recognized 146 species of *Cypræa* proper and 40 species of *Trivia*—making 186 species in the genus. Mr. Melvill, in his survey, differs with them upon some points. He changes *C. princeps*, Gray, to *C. valentia*, Perry; *C. undata*, Lam., to *C. diluculum*, Reeve; and *C. tardus*, Lam., to *C. ovata*, Perry; reduces from specific to varietal rank, *C. reticulata*, Martyn; *C. coxi*, Brazier; *C. polita* Roberts; *C. semiplota*, Mighels; *C. cernica*, Sowerby; *C. coxeni*, Cox; *C. sophie*, Brazier; *C. microndon*, Gray; *C. macula*, Adams; and *C. fuscomaculata*, Pease; and advances to specific rank the following varieties: *C. caput-anguis*, Phil.; *C. fabula*, Kiener; *C. coffea*, Sowerby; *C. menkeana*, Deshayes; *C. brevidentata*, Sowerby; *C. bregeriana*, Crosse; *C. eomptoni*, Gray; *C. depauperata*, Sowerby; and *C. scabriuscula*, Gray.

I have lately received a fine specimen of *C. bregeriana*, Crosse, *New Caledonia*, from Mr. G. B. Sowerby, of London, who writes to me that he is now of the opinion that it is a good species and not a variety of *C. walkeri*, Gray, as he thought it to be when he published his monograph in the *Thesaurus*. Mr. Roberts also make it a variety of *C. walkeri*. Weinkauff and Melvill give it specific rank, as does also Mr. Richard C. Rossiter, of New Caledonia. I think it is, undoubtedly, a good species. The white specks are characteristic and are not found in *C. walkeri*.

A large series of specimens of *C. cervus* Linn. and *C. exanthema* Linn., which I have in my collection, leads me to doubt whether these two species are really distinct. No authentic localities outside of Panama and vicinity, West Indies, Florida and Southeastern United States are known in connection with either of them, and they are found indiscriminately in the localities named. A beautiful set of specimens of *C. cervus*, from the South Florida Keys, are in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. I have spec-

imens of both species from several localities in the West Indies, and the characters described in the books do not hold good to separate them. It is a pity that some naturalist has not examined the animals.

It is also doubtful if *C. exusta* Sowerby, and *C. talpa*, Linn, are distinct. I have a specimen of the typical *C. exusta* from Mr. Sowerby, and another which I received from Mr. Damon, of Weymouth, England, seems to me to connect the two species. Weinkauff may be right in making *C. exusta* a variety of *C. talpa*.

The opinion held by some that *C. decipiens* Smith, was a dwarf variety of *C. thersites* Gaskoin, has been definitely set at rest by Mr. Sowerby receiving last summer, a number of fine specimens of *C. decipiens* from Australia. I was fortunate enough to obtain one of them—probably the first specimen that has reached America. It is certainly a good species, and one of the most beautiful of all the Cypræas. The palm of beauty probably lies between it and *C. aurantium* Martyn. By the way, the fabulous prices given for the last-named shell are things of the past. Instead of costing anywhere from \$50 to \$100, a good specimen can be obtained for \$15, and the finest kind of one for \$20 to \$22. It is no longer a rare species, but can readily be obtained from any of the prominent shell-dealers of Europe.

Philadelphia, April 10, 1889.

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## THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

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### Chapter XLV.

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#### SUB-ORDER INTEGRI-PALLIATA.

Siphons short, not retractile; pallial impression simple, without sinus. This sub-order contains fifteen families.

#### FAMILY CYRENIDÆ.

Shell regular, oval or sub-trigonal, covered with an epidermis; hinge with two or three teeth in each valve; lateral teeth, two, simple or striated; ligament external; pallial impression simple, or with a short sinus.

This family has been made the special study of Mr. Temple Prime, a lawyer of N. Y. City, who is authority on this subject. He published, in 1865, a monograph of the species inhabiting the American Continent, illustrated with figures and giving all the synonyms, localities and other items of interest concerning them. In 1871 he published a catalogue of all the species in the world (of this family), known to date. He divided it into six genera and three hundred and twenty-two species, of which one hundred and eleven are American. There are now recognized seven genera and nearly four hun-